2:Ingrams G-5 (1934-35)1945 MM2 Hadhramaut MM2

qualification. Pomp and circumstance mean little to a tribesman and nothing at all if they are only window dressing. It is worth while quoting what Tabari says of the Khalif Umar's instructions to governors: "Whenever he appointed a governor he used to draw up in writing a certificate of investiture. It contained the following instructions: That he must not ride on horseback, nor eat white bread, nor wear fine clothes, not set up a door between himself and those who had aught to ask of him."[1]

An officer living in many of these countries must not expect a life of ease and comfort, and he must be ready to do without the sort of things that he considers the ordinary amenities of life, such as games, clubs, European society and its distractions. If he cannot find interest and entertainment in local society and its diversions, he is better elsewhere. The same applies to his wife. Freya Stark once wrote that the British are always popular until they bring their wives. This is exaggerated but there is a great deal of truth in it, and I have often heard the complaint that wives caused the lack of understanding between British officers and their people by keeping their husbands away from the people.

Apart from personal qualities an officer must have not only a knowledge of the language of the country but a knowledge of and sympathy with its religious customs. He must know its history and the more he knows of its literature the better. Without these he cannot speak with the enemy within the gates. Finally, he must have a general grounding of administrative or technical knowledge and experience. When he sees a suitable opening and can get the requisite co-operation he should be in a position to help to put finances on a sound basis, and to help in the development of medical services, education and agriculture. He should be of an inventive turn of mind and should be able to make a little money do the work of a lot. He should be able to make bricks without straws.

I cannot, of course, pretend to speak for any area of which I have not direct experience, but from what I have seen and heard of the rest of the Middle East I have the feeling that it is qualifications of this kind that are needed there also.

It may be to some extent a counsel of perfection to ask for officers of these qualifications, but I find it difficult to believe that candidates with many or all of them and with the necessary missionary spirit cannot be found; and I think there would be a far greater chance of finding them if there were a recognized unified political service from which political officers and advisers could be selected for the various posts which we have or may have to fill in this area. If there were such a service it should be possible to attract better candidates to it as there would be a cadre large enough to offer a reasonable career.

Of course that is not enough by itself to ensure a settled, or at any rate a more settled, Middle East. There is the importance of adequately garrisoning the area (of showing force as Lyautey, often quoted by Brigadier

[1] R. A. Nicholson, *Literary History of the Arabs* (London, Cambridge University Press, 1930).